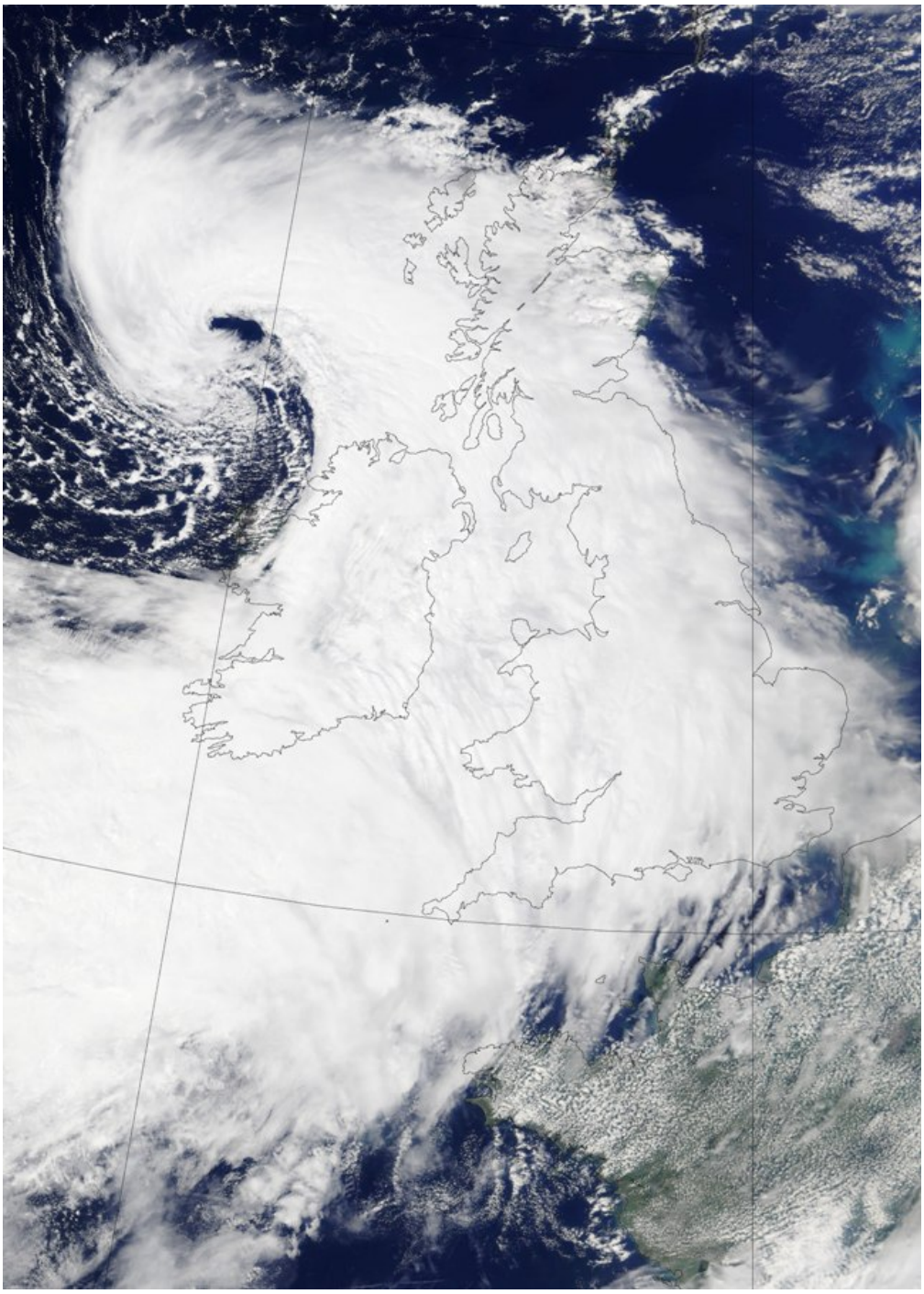
Met Office

June 2015

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1981-2010.

The first day of summer 2015: the satellite image below on 1 June shows a deep area of low pressure centred to the west of Scotland with the UK almost entirely covered by cloud. This system brought rain and unseasonably strong winds across the UK, with gusts of over 60 mph across parts of Northern Ireland, southern Scotland and northern England. A mean sea level pressure of 974 hPa was recorded at Tiree (Hebrides) at 2100 GMT on 1st; unusually low for June. Image copyright Met Office / NOAA



UK overview

At the start of June an intense low pressure system brought rain and unseasonably strong winds to the UK. After this, the month was typified by rather quiet weather generally; after a spell of fine, settled weather there was rain or showers from time to time, and more unsettled conditions over Scotland, although generally much drier further south. Much of June was rather cool in an often westerly or north-westerly flow, but it became very warm at the end of the month.

The UK mean temperature was 12.7 °C, which is 0.3 °C below the 1981-2010 long-term average. It was coldest relative to average in northern and western areas. Rainfall was above average over the northern and western two-thirds of Scotland, but England, Wales and Northern Ireland were drier than average. Parts of the London area and East Anglia were especially dry with less than a third of average rainfall in some places. The overall UK rainfall total was 77% of average. It was a sunny month for much of the UK except Scotland. The UK overall received 112% of average sunshine hours and this was the sixth month out of the last seven to be sunnier than average for the UK.

The UK monthly extremes were as follows: a maximum temperature of 32.5 °C was recorded at Heathrow (Greater London) on the 30th. This occurred shortly before 0900 GMT on 1st July at the end of the standard 0900 to 0900 GMT observing period for the last day of the month during a developing heat-wave. A minimum temperature of -1.9 °C was recorded at Katesbridge (County Down) on the 9th and also at Resallach (Sutherland) on the 14th. In the 24 hours ending at 0900 GMT on the 2nd, 89.0 mm of rain fell at Treherbert (Mid-Glamorgan). A wind gust of 78 mph was recorded at Capel Curig (Gwynedd) on the 1st.

Weather impacts

June began in decidedly unsettled mode with a swathe of unseasonably strong winds covering most of the UK apart from the far north-west and the south-east. This coincided with heavy rainfall and there were reports of some localised flash-flooding to roads across Wales. Wind gusts of 50 to 60 mph were recorded in exposed coastal locations. However, the winds eased and rain moved away during the 2nd.

A brief incursion of warm, humid air from the south on the 5th gave the possibility of heavy thundery rain, but in the event there was little disruption. Another thundery breakdown from the south occurred on 12th to13th but again rainfall totals were relatively modest. After a settled spell, there were further warnings of heavy localised downpours during the weekend of 20th to 21st for areas stretching from the NW Midlands down to SE England, and on the 21st for a smaller area of Aberdeen and Angus.

The final day of the month was hot in parts of England, with heat-health alerts being issued.

England diary of highlights

The month began unsettled with an unseasonably vigorous low pressure system bringing rain and strong winds. The weather was then mostly quite settled, with high pressure dominating for a time, though with rain and showers for a time around mid-month. The end of the month was drier, and it became very warm on the last two days.

The mean temperature for the month was 0.1 °C below the 1981-2010 long-term average. Rainfall was generally below average, particularly in eastern areas, with London and parts of East Anglia receiving only around a third or less of the normal amount. The overall rainfall figure for England was 57% of average. Sunshine amounts were above normal, with an overall total of 122%.

1st to 2nd:

Early scattered showers on the 1st were soon replaced by rain moving in from the west, extending eastwards through the afternoon. The rain became persistent and heavy in the west and was accompanied by strong to gale-force south-westerly winds. This cleared from the west by daybreak on the 2nd, and a cool, windy day with sunshine and scattered showers followed. A maximum gust of 75 mph was recorded at Needles, Isle of Wight in the early hours of the 2nd.

3rd to 11th:

The 3rd was generally fine and sunny, with lighter winds and feeling much warmer. The 4th continued dry with good sunny spells, and temperatures reached 24 °C in the London area. An area of thunderstorms moved into south-eastern areas during the early hours of the 5th, clearing by afternoon to leave scattered showers and some warm sunshine, temperatures reaching 26.7 °C at Frittenden (Kent). Cooler and fresher on the 6th with northern areas seeing scattered showers and the south mainly dry. Dry, sunny and warm from the 7th to the 10th, although eastern coastal areas saw temperatures pegged back with a cool sea breeze. The 11th was mainly dry, sunny and feeling warmer with temperatures reaching 25 °C in southern areas, although some heavy, thundery showers edged into the south-west during the afternoon.

12th to 22nd:

The 12th started mainly dry, but showers soon developed in central and southern areas, some thundery with certain areas seeing more persistent rain. However, with plenty of sunshine, temperatures reached 26.8 °C at Kew Gardens (Greater London). A band of rain moved slowly south during the morning of the 13th, clearing the far south by late afternoon with scattered showers behind. The 14th saw sunny spells, but also isolated showers mainly in central and northern areas. A mainly dry day on the 15th with plenty of sunshine but feeling cooler on the east coast. The 16th was again mainly dry with sunny spells. A band of rain spread from the north-west during the morning of the 17th, weakening as it moved south-east, with sunshine and showers to follow. The 18th was mostly fine with sunny spells, though with isolated showers in the north-east. Another mainly dry day on the 19th but scattered showers developed in eastern and northern areas during the afternoon. A dry and bright start on the 20th but widespread showers developed during the afternoon with thunder for some central and southern areas. Showers in northern areas on the 21st were generally more scattered and light with southern areas mainly dry and bright. There were scattered showers during the morning of the 22nd but these intensified during the afternoon, particularly in the east with thunder in Humberside and Lincolnshire.

23rd to 30th:

The 23rd was dry with plenty of sunshine and feeling warmer. The 24th was mainly dry again with plenty of sunshine, and only isolated showers in the north. The 25th saw a north-south contrast, the north seeing rain move slowly eastwards, and a dry and warm day in the south with temperatures reaching 26 °C in Kent. Areas of rain or showers affected many areas on the 26th with only the south-east escaping the worst and temperatures reaching 27.8 °C at Gravesend (Kent). Another mainly dry, sunny and warm day on the 27th, but cooler with isolated showers in the north-west. A cold front moved south-east during the morning of the 28th, clearing the south by early afternoon with scattered showers following. The 29th was mainly dry, sunny and warm although northern areas saw some showers during the afternoon. A very hot and sunny day on the 30th during a developing heat-wave, but showers edged in towards the south coast during the evening.

Wales diary of highlights

After an unsettled start, with rain or showers and strong winds, the weather settled down for a time. After another cooler spell with some rain or showers, the end of the month was sunny and very warm.

The mean temperature for the month was 0.2 °C below average. Rainfall was broadly below normal, with 69% of the long-term average for Wales overall. It was quite a sunny month, with 129% of average sunshine.

1st to 6th:

The 1st was dull and cool with showers to start, giving way to rain by mid-morning which became heavy and persistent through the afternoon and evening with strong to gale-force winds. A gust of 78 mph and rainfall of 58.8 mm were recorded at Capel Curig (Gwynedd). Rain during the early hours of the 2nd became patchier through the morning, and the afternoon was drier with sunny spells, but continuing unseasonably windy. The 3rd was dry with some sunshine, and the 4th was warmer with further sunshine. Sunny too on the 5th but with some showers in the west. The 6th was windy, gusting to 58 mph at Capel Curig, but also fine and sunny.

7th to 11th:

It was dry and sunny on the 7th and 8th, and again on the 9th but with more cloud by the afternoon. Warm, dry and sunny on the 10th with 20.7 °C recorded at Portmadog (Gwynedd). Continuing fine on the 11th, which was the warmest day of the year so far with 24.4 °C at Cardiff, Bute Park, though there was more cloud and some showers in the afternoon around south-western coasts.

12th to 28th:

Though still warm, the 12th was much cloudier with a few showers at first, then more organised light rain in the south and east. Rain continued on the morning of the 13th before gradually easing through the afternoon, but it remained cloudy. The 14th and 15th were mainly dry with broken cloud and some sunshine. The 16th had some very light and patchy rain in the early hours but this gave way to a mainly dry and bright day. Generally cloudy on the 17th with an area of light patchy rain in central and south-western parts in the afternoon and early evening. Dry with long spells of sunshine on the 18th. Cloudy with some showers inland and over the north on the 19th, with more sunshine in the south. The 20th was warm with sunshine and a few showers. Sunny intervals on the 21st before rain moved into the south-west and south in the evening. The 22nd had rain along the south coast and some patchy rain on the north coast until mid-morning, leaving a dry and sunny afternoon and evening. Dry with continuous sunshine on the 23rd. The 24th was cloudier with an area of rain in the north in the afternoon but there was sunshine in the south all day. Cloudy on the 25th with some patchy rain or showers in the north, but more broken cloud and sunny spells in the south. Early rain on the 26th was replaced by isolated showers by mid-morning with some sunny spells. Generally dry with some sunshine on the 27th although it clouded over with rain by mid-evening. The 28th started wet, the rain clearing by mid-morning to give a generally dry day with some sunshine.

29th to 30th:

After a cloudy start on the 29th, it warmed up with some sunshine. The 30th was fine and hot with 29.0 °C recorded at Hawarden Airport (Flintshire).

Scotland diary of highlights

The month began rather unsettled and wet, with strong winds. There were some brief settled spells towards the middle of the month, but for much of the time it remained unsettled, and western areas were often quite wet. It was also a cool month, especially in the north-west.

The mean temperature for the month was 0.7 °C below the long-term average. Rainfall was mostly above average, and twice the normal in Orkney, but it was drier than average in eastern counties. The overall rainfall figure for Scotland was 104%. It was generally a rather dull month, and sunshine totals were 86% of average.

1st to 8th:

The 1st began with sunshine and showers, with the showers continuing all day in the east, before a band of heavy and persistent rain moved in from the west to reach the north-east by the evening. Winds were fresh to strong, and 41.4 mm of rainfall was recorded at Tyndrum (Perthshire). Rain in central parts on the 2nd became

more showery, with sunny spells by the afternoon, particularly in the east. Strong winds were also a feature, with a gust of 65 mph recorded at Edinburgh, Blackford Hill. Some sunshine on the 3rd, with some showers in the north-west Highlands. The 4th was generally cloudy except in the north-east, with an area of rain moving in from the south-west during the afternoon and reaching the far north by the evening. More rain reached the west by early morning on the 5th and moved northwards, clearing by early afternoon to showers, although the east remained dry. The 6th was windy with strong to gale-force winds particularly in the east with a gust of 63 mph at Edinburgh, Blackford Hill; there was rain in central and north-west Scotland but it was drier and sunnier in the east. Showers in the north spread east and then south through the day on the 7th with long spells of sunshine at times. Sunshine and showers continued on the 8th with most showers in the north-east.

9th to 12th:

Dry, bright and warm on the 9th, apart from a few isolated showers in the far north, as pressure rose. Dry, warm and sunny for most areas on the 10th and 11th but cloudier in the north with some patchy rain at times, and it was the warmest day of the year so far on the 11th with 23.8 °C recorded at Aboyne (Aberdeenshire). Mainly dry and warm again on the 12th but with some patchy rain later.

13th to 30th:

It was much cooler on the 13th, with rain in the north moving slowly south through the day and becoming patchy. Scattered showers in the north on the 14th but cloudier in the south at first with rain, dying out during the afternoon as it became brighter. Some patchy rain for most areas on the 15th, especially Argyll, with more general rain reaching all apart from the far north by the evening. Mostly dry and warm in the south on the 16th, but rain further north during the afternoon. A windy day and a wet start in the south on the 17th and then, apart from a few scattered showers, the rest of the day was mainly dry. The 18th was another breezy day, with frequent showers for most areas and some longer spells of rain at times in the north and west. Mainly dry on the 19th apart from some patchy rain in the west and south, especially in the afternoon. Mainly dry again on the 20th after some rain in the south during the morning. An unsettled day on the 21st with frequent showers or longer spells of rain for most areas, but especially the north with 26.4 mm recorded at Lentran (Highland). Mainly dry on the 22nd apart from some rain in the east which slowly moved away southwards. It was mainly dry and cloudy on the 23rd, apart from some brightness in the south early on. After a dry start in the east on the 24th, rain in the west spread to most areas during the afternoon. A dry start again for most areas on the 25th but rain spread from the south-west across the country through the day. It continued unsettled on the 26th with showers or longer spells of rain for most areas. Most areas were dry on the 27th but a few showers were seen in the north and west. Overnight rain for most areas cleared east into the North Sea during the morning of the 28th, and the rest of the day was a mix of sunshine and heavy showers. Scattered showers for most areas on the 29th with rain moving in from the west by the evening. Mainly dry and very warm on the 30th with 26.9 °C recorded at Carterhouse (Borders), but some isolated showers developed later in the day and merged into longer spells of rain in the north-west.

Northern Ireland diary of highlights

The start of the month was unseasonably cool, wet and windy, but after that there was a week or so of mainly settled weather. During the second half, any frontal systems were mainly weak, and, though it was often on the cool side, the end of the month turned much warmer.

The cool nature of the month gave a mean temperature 0.5 °C below the long-term average. However, most parts were drier and sunnier than average, with rainfall only 60% of the long-term average, and a sunshine total of 119% of average.

1st to 6th:

After early showers on the 1st, rain, heavy at times, spread quickly north-east during the afternoon and it was cold with strengthening south-westerly winds. A bright and breezy start to the 2nd but heavy, blustery

showers developed in places. The 3rd was mainly fine and sunny with light winds. Rain at first on the 4th cleared away northwards, to leave a mostly fine and sunny afternoon. Overnight rain soon cleared on the 5th to leave a bright day but with strong to gale-force westerly winds. Remaining windy on the 6th, with showery outbreaks of rain.

7th to 15th:

With winds easing, the 7th was generally dry and bright. The 8th to 11th were dry with long spells of warm sunshine, though it was cooler along the north coast. The highest temperature recorded was 22.3 °C at Killowen (County Down) on the 11th. The 12th was cloudier but remained mainly dry. A weak front brought some light rain to the north early on the 13th along with cooler, cloudier conditions. The 14th was generally dry and sunny, and the 15th continued dry but with more cloud.

16th to 21st:

The 16th was cloudy, and patchy rain reached some areas in the evening, becoming more persistent overnight into the 17th but clearing to leave another mainly dry, cloudy day. Some rain for the north and west at first on the 18th, otherwise fine but remaining cloudy. Mainly dry and cloudy again on the 19th but patchy rain affected most places from late afternoon. Mainly dry on the 20th but with scattered showers later, heaviest in the south. The 21st was a day of sunshine and showers.

22nd to 30th:

The 22nd and 23rd were largely dry and sunny, temperatures reaching 21 °C away from the north coast on the 23rd. Cloudy with scattered showers on the 24th, becoming heavy at times in the north. Patchy rain for most places during the day on the 25th. After further spells of rain early on the 26th it became mainly dry by the afternoon. Dry at first on the 27th, but scattered showers were followed by more general rain in the evening. The rain persisted overnight, and was heavy at times, with 19.6 mm recorded at Killowen. A few showers developed away from the south-east during the 28th. The 29th started dry before spells of rain arrived from the west towards midday, clearing away later. The 30th was largely dry with good spells of sunshine, and became very warm with temperatures into the mid-twenties generally; 25.1 °C was recorded at Magilligan (County Londonderry).

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Met Office